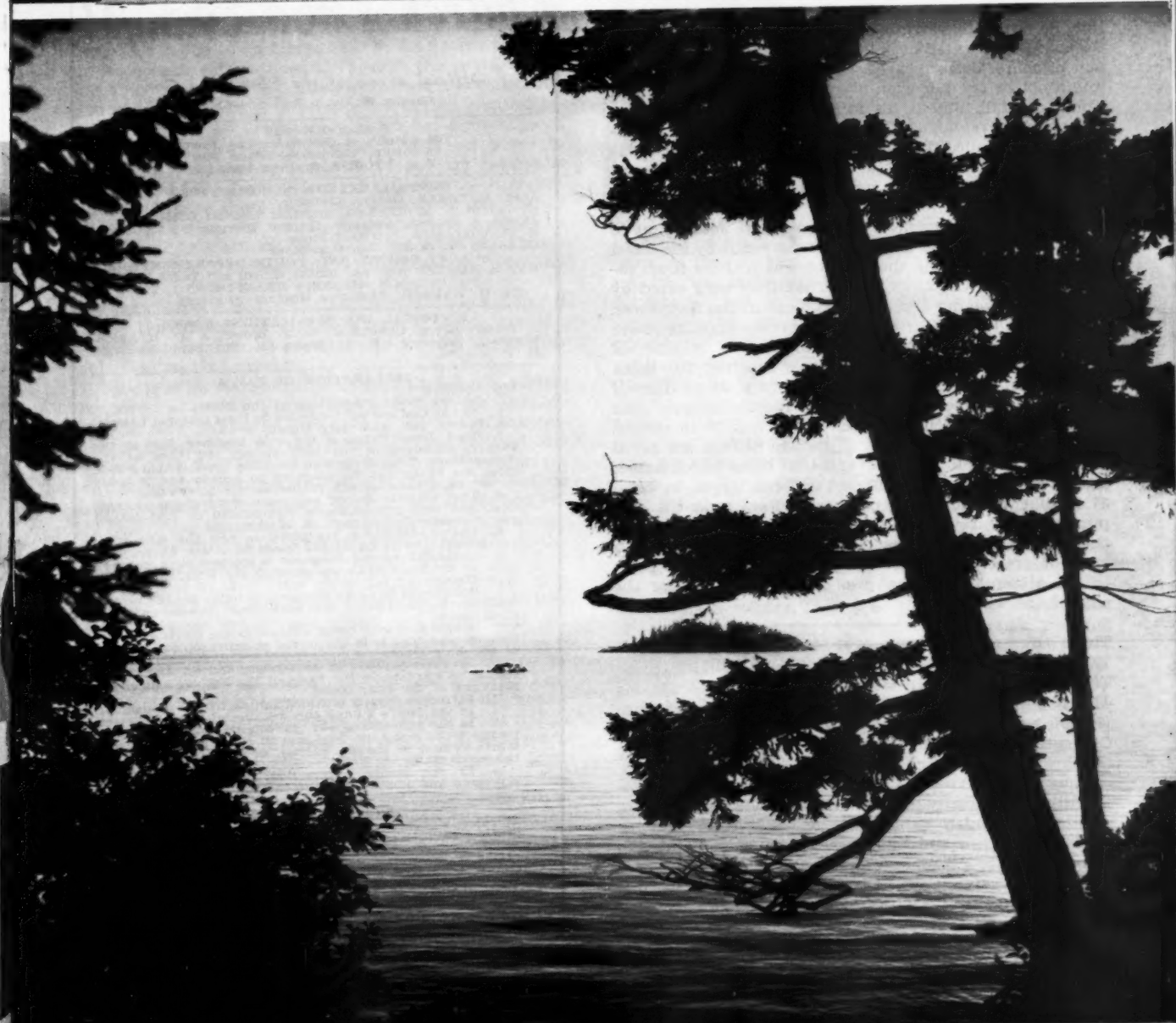


Vol. 46—No. 34

October 22, 1955

Church of God
Evangel



The Question Box

NOTE: All questions addressed to "The Question Box" must be signed if they are to receive a reply. However, names will be withheld from publication if requested. Only the questions considered of general interest will be answered in the EVANGEL.

QUESTION: What did Jesus mean when he said to Simon, "But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not; and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren"? Were the disciples converted before or after Jesus went to Calvary?—Ruth Hardy, East Laurinburg, North Carolina.

THIS IS A precious and intimate portion of Scripture. In it Jesus draws back the veil to give His disciple a glimpse into the future. Satan had made an audacious move to destroy the Apostle in the fires of temptation. So complete was the divine confidence in Simon Peter that God granted permission for him to be tried without measure. Jesus prayed for Peter—but not that he would not be tried or even overcome; only that his faith would not fall him. If his faith remained stedfast then he could recover himself after being overcome for a moment. Peter denied the Lord on the night before the crucifixion, but he then repented. It was after this repentance, or conversion, that Peter was to strengthen his brothers in Christ.

Now, were the disciples converted before Jesus went to Calvary? Clearly their salvation was wrought by the blood of Christ, without the shedding of which there is no remission of sins (Hebrews 9:22). That they were saved by faith in His coming crucifixion is clear in the Scriptures. In Matthew 10:1-8, Christ gave His twelve apostles power to cast out unclean spirits and to heal all manner of sickness and disease. This power is reserved for those whose hearts are made pure by His grace. Jesus Himself said to His disciples in Luke 10:20, "Rejoice because your names *are* written in heaven." Revelation 20:15 reveals that those whose names are written in heaven are saved from hell. Revelation 13:8 reveals that those whose names are so written are saved from the Devil. Jesus, in John 17:16, likened the purity of the disciples unto His own purity: "*They are not* of the world, even as I am not of the world." It seems clear that the disciples were in a state of grace, but it was the power of and their faith in His atoning blood that was soon to be shed for the sins of the world.

Three things return not, even for prayers and tears,
The arrow which the archer shoots at will;
The spoken word, keen-edged and sharp to sting;
The opportunity left unimproved.
If thou wouldst speak a word of loving cheer,
Oh, speak it now. This moment is thine own.

—Richardson.

Truth and sincerity have a certain distinguishing lustre about them which cannot be perfectly counterfeited; they are like fire and flame, they cannot be painted.—*Franklin.*

COVER PICTURE—Robert Mitchell

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DECLARATION OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE

1. In the verbal inspiration of the Bible.
2. In one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
3. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary. That Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead; that He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor.
4. That all who have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and that repentance is commanded of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins.
5. That justification, regeneration, and the new birth are wrought by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ.
6. In sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ; through the Word, and by the Holy Ghost.
7. Holiness to be God's standard of living for His people.
8. In the baptism of the Holy Ghost subsequent to a clean heart.
9. In speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost.
10. In water baptism by immersion, and all who repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
11. Divine healing is provided for all in the atonement.
12. In the Lord's Supper, and washing of the saint's feet.
13. In the premillennial second coming of Jesus. First, to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away the living saints to Him in the air. Second, to reign on the earth a thousand years.
14. In the bodily resurrection; eternal life for the righteous and eternal punishment for the wicked.

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What Is the World's Greatest Secret Weapon?

By EARL T. GOLDEN
Pastor, Coffeyville, Kansas

FROM THE DAYS of sticks and stones as weapons to the present advent of the atomic age, man has constantly been in search of better weapons. Perhaps, this is due to an inbred fear in his heart and a desire to become self-sufficient. Through the years, as science has made its rapid advances, man has constantly changed his opinion as to what is the world's greatest secret weapon. Today, with only a limited knowledge of atomic power, man has uncovered a source of power so great that even the top scientists of our day hesitantly move forward for fear of destroying the world. However, I do not believe these men have discovered the world's greatest power or the world's greatest secret weapon.

Jesus said in Matthew 6:6, "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet and when thou hast shut thy door, *pray* to thy Father which is *in secret*; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." I believe that Christ revealed to man the world's greatest secret weapon when he presented to the world this formula for "secret prayer."

There is not a man-developed power that can challenge the power of prayer. Prayer brings to man the omnipotence of God. Prayer will go beyond the veil of the human and physical into the sphere of the spiritual and supernatural. Paul said, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

James tells us that "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Jesus even goes farther and says when prayer is coupled with faith that "all things are possible."

The power of prayer is as indescribable as the power of God, for prayer appropriates God's power. Prayer has: "closed the mouths of lions"; "quenched the violence of fire"; rolled back the waters of a raging river and a rolling sea; unlocked the bolted door of a city jail; brought a man from the grave after being dead for three days; and taken another man to heaven in a chariot of fire without his dying. Yet, we only see through a glass darkly when we try to fathom the depths of the power of prayer.

Every great revival has had its birth in the closet of secret prayer. These revealing words come from the diary of David Brainerd, the great young missionary to the American Indians. "Whole nights were spent in agonizing prayer in the dark woods." His clothes were drenched with

the sweat of his travail. There is little wonder that God so marvelously used him in sending a revival to the American Indians. In the writings of John Wesley we find these words, "About three in the morning as we were continuing instant in prayer; the power of God came mightily upon us." And from the autobiography of Charles G. Finney this statement, "There was a mighty spirit of secret prayer. Christians prayed a great deal. Many of them would spend hours in private prayer."

The Bible has this to say about the greatest Missionary and Evangelist of all: Mark 1:35, "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." Matthew 14:23, "And when he had sent the multitude away he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come he was there alone." Luke 6:12, "And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God." Consider such statements; "rising up a great while before day"; "into a solitary place and there prayed"; "he went up into a mountain apart to pray"; "he was there alone"; and "continued all night in prayer to God." These describe the prayer life of Christ. Yet today very little thought and stress is laid upon the value and power of secret prayer.

AN OUTSTANDING evangelist is no substitute for the secret prayer of the church membership. A popular singing group cannot bring the power that prayer can bring. Organization, advertising, and promotion cannot take the place of agonizing and prayer. These things are necessary and good in their places but there is no short cut to victory. It is true that nearly every phase of our twentieth-century lives have been streamlined and push-buttoned; however, it still takes time and travail to really pray. We may be popular personalities; we may be accomplished psychologists; we may be sensational orators; we may be intellectual "whizzes" and super organizers; but, until we have drenched our lives in secret prayer, true power is lacking.

You may be shocked to know that the world's greatest secret weapon is in your home. In fact, just as near as your secret place of prayer. It is true that in far too many homes the weapon is lying dormant. Yet, the potential is certainly in every Christian home.

This world is in a mad, almost insane race to see who can come up the quickest with the greatest in the field

(Continued on page 10)

BULLETIN BOARD

Notice

TO LICENSED MINISTERS AND EXHORTERS

Your 1955 license will be void after December 31, 1955. Please send it in for renewal with your November report.

General Secretary and Treasurer

HELP NEEDED IN BARBADOS B. W. I.

(GREAT STORM DEVASTATION, PEOPLE DESTITUTE, 12 CHURCHES IN RUBBLE)

Dear Brother Walker:

I suppose you have long since received word that a hurricane has about liquidated the formerly beautiful isle of Barbados.

We were notified at about 3:30 a.m. Thursday, September 22, that a storm was coming and that we could expect gale winds. We made minor preparations. At 7:30 a.m. the acting Governor said that we should not be alarmed as great danger was not expected, and the hurricane was to pass north of the island at about 2:00 p.m. However, he was wrong. By 10:00 a.m. we had a howler, and at 11:00 houses started moving off. Winds of 100 miles or more an hour lashed for several hours. We did not get very much rain, but the damage from the winds is in the neighborhood of millions of dollars. An estimate has not yet been made. There are thousands of people destitute, homeless, and on relief. The churches and schools are full of such, and there is nowhere for them to go. Many are our members and some are our ministers.

The "eye" passed just off the south tip of the island. This caused the bulk of the damage in the southern region and to the easterly part. The house in which we live would have been all right if the roof of the house beside us had not landed on ours. This caused considerable damage to our roof, but we are safe and no damage was done to us or our things. The McAfee's are all right, too. Now as to our loss, it is tremendous. The city churches are not damaged much. The better country ones not too bad, but 12 are in rubble. They are; namely, Boarded Hall, Rockley, Green's, Waverly Cot, Venture, Newbury, and Church Village. The large Fitz Village Church is caved in on one side, and six others were thrown off their foundations with lesser damage.

The death toll has not been completed. Last night 24 were listed as dead but the toll is now listed at 30.

I will close now, but what help can you give? We need your prayers and financial help. We are in a desperate condition.—Luke R. Summers, Overseer.

Surely the Lord will move on the hearts of our people to send a sizeable cash offering to help in this hour of distress and terrific loss. Send contributions to FOREIGN MISSIONS DEPARTMENT, 1080 Montgomery Ave., Cleveland, Tenn., and state clearly that it is for storm relief.—Executive Secretary.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of James A. Nelson, please contact his mother, Mrs. John Powell, 1641 Indiana Avenue, Flint 6, Michigan.

Anyone having friends and relatives located in El Reno, Oklahoma, please contact the pastor, Cleburn Byers, at 120 South Admire, El Reno, Oklahoma.

My son in Korea needs help from the Lord. He is S. Sgt. Floyd W. Hunt, 58th Installation Sqd., APO 970, Box 6, in care of Postmaster, San Francisco, California. If there is anyone near him who is a member of the Church of God and could pray with him, I believe he will be saved.—Mrs. T. W. Hunt, his mother.

Everett J. Byers, Route 3, Coffeetown, Mississippi, is now open for revivals.

Any members or friends of the Church of God in Spindale, North Carolina, please contact Evangelist Margaret Jacobs, 141 Palisade Street, Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Anyone having friends or relatives living in Long Island, New York, that you would like for us to visit, please contact Rev. M. W. Sindle, 146-53 Brookville Boulevard, Rosedale, L.I., New York, or call LA8-9359.

We would be happy to have the names and addresses of anyone living in Brooklyn, Staten Island, or any part of New York City. The Church of God is located in Brooklyn at 615 51st Street.—Rev. E. E. Nicholson, Pastor, 146-53 Brookville Boulevard, Rosedale, L.I., New York. Phone LA8-9359.

Anyone having friends or relatives in and around Seneca Falls, Geneva, or Waterloo, New York, please contact Rev. C. E. Allen, Box 384, Waterloo, New York. We have just organized a new Church of God in Waterloo.

THE PREACHER'S CORNER

By W. M. GRANGER, Pastor, Slater, South Carolina

2 Timothy 4:5: "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."

Making "full proof of thy ministry" is far-reaching indeed.

1. We do not need more material development; we need more Scriptural development.
2. We do not need more intellectual power; we need more moral power.
3. We do not need more knowledge; we need more character.
4. We do not need more government; we need more culture.
5. We do not need more law; we need more religion.
6. We do not need more of the things that are seen; we need more of the things that are unseen.—Calvin Coolidge.

This bit of advice might well be applied to the ministry. You do have a right to your opinion, but that does not mean your opinion is right.

The Church of God Evangel

*A young minister
takes a serious look at*

Christian Perfection

FRED L. JERNIGAN

Sunday School and Youth Director of Tennessee

CHRISTIAN PERFECTION is one of the most important teachings of God's Word. Along with other great teachings and doctrines in the New Testament, perfection is revealed with a great deal of emphasis. The Bible teaches that perfection can be obtained through salvation before death.

The word perfection as used in the New Testament is derived from the Greek word, "telios" meaning complete. "Telios" is also used to denote a high degree of excellence, full growth, or that without shortcomings. By realizing that perfection is full development, we can more easily learn the full meaning of Christian perfection.

It is commanded by God that man be perfect. In Genesis 17:1 we read, "be thou perfect." In order to become a perfect Christian one must first be perfect in his relationship with God. He should endeavor to live a life pleasing in the sight of God, a life acceptable in perfect harmony with His divine will. In Hebrews 13:21 we read, "Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ . . ."

Perfection is more a condition of faith than one of immunity to sin or fault. Perfection is provided for all Christians. It is not some new experience or revelation. It is the full acceptance of the complete blessings, gifts, and graces of God which are available in the life of the believer.

Perfection should not be considered as a high throne above the remote possibility of temptation and sin. It does not mean one cannot be tainted by sin. It simply proves the successfulness of one's continued efforts to stay free from sin. Perfection simply means that a person is following a perfect pattern of Christian experience, living, and growth. It means that the adherent has turned his back on sin, accepted the fullness of God's grace, and is pressing forward "toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded." Philipians 3:14, 15.

The practical aspect of perfection in following Jesus Christ is not merely to abstain from any overt act of transgression or sin, but rather it is one of a Christ-like attitude. Perfection is obtained by first receiving the ex-

perience of salvation, then by following the perfect Biblical pattern of Christian growth and consecration. A good example was shown by an incident in the ministry of Christ. The rich young ruler came to Christ with a testimony of his perfect moral behavior; but his attitude, that imperfect part of him, was brought to light when Jesus said, "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasures in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions." Matthew 19:21, 22. All the good moral gestures of man cannot make him perfect in the eyes of God.

PERFECTION HAS A very prominent place in Christian growth. In Hebrews 6:1 we read, "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection . . ." In the next few verses many of the more basic doctrines and teachings of the Church are mentioned. The thought here is that the acceptance and adherence to these basic truths in our lives are forward steps in Christian perfection. Then our love for God might develop similar to the words of the song, "Every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before." Additional years of service for a devoted Christian inevitably result in a development of perfectness. "Sweeter as the years go by," might well be the testimony of many a devoted child of God.

The attitude required of a perfect-minded Christian might be found in the Sermon on the Mount from which our text is quoted. In the recording by Luke we have the Sermon on the Mount with some additional statements not recorded in the book of Matthew. In Luke 6:35 he enlarges on the meaning of the text: "But love ye your enemies and do good . . . and your reward will be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest . . ." Perfection is brought about when the individual opens his heart to the fullness of God's divine grace, receives that grace in its fullness, and then continues to yield himself to the ideas, thoughts, and works, as set forth in God's Word.

One of the great obligations of the Christian ministry is to provide instruction and help for full perfect development. (Continued on page 10)



KNOW THE TRUTH!



By DREXEL L. POPE
Lee College Student



2 Timothy 3:7, "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."

IN THE LAST DAYS men are to be ever learning, ever increasing in knowledge intellectually, scientifically, socially, and economically, but not in reality; ever searching and seeking for knowledge so that great things can be fathomed for humanity, but what should it profit them if they should possess all the learning the world has available and yet not know the truth?

Today, young Americans are coming to believe more and more in progress, and mortal men are making this push-button life as convenient and comfortable as can be expected. Knowledge to make this life more comfortable is good, but knowledge to make the next life more comfortable is better. This life is but a vapour "that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away," but the next life is for eternity.

Through the mechanized forces of modern times, life may be easier for the ditch digger, but it is not any easier for the people of God. We are now in a great period of prosperity, and in prosperous times people have a tendency to become negligent. Neglect causes sin—rebellion against God. As long as inspired men of God will perspire for the cause of God, people can still live holy lives in an unholy world. Through prayer, study, and obedience to God's holy Word we can live luxurious lives in the spirit.

We have come far in the advancement of knowledge, and today we are learning more and more because knowledge can be handed from generation to generation through the printed page. No matter how much our finite minds can comprehend, we shall only know in part; but then shall we know even as we are known.

According to the Bible there is only one truth, and that is divine truth. Divine truth is the only truth that is everlasting. Truth is manifested unto us in three forms: the Man of truth, the Book of truth, and the Spirit of truth. The Spirit of truth shall lead man to the Living Truth through the written truth. John Wesley said, "At any price give me that Book of God! Let me be a man of one book." All Christians should be one with God: one book, the Word of God; one Man, the *I AM* of God—not the *I am* of self; and one Spirit of God "by which we are all baptized into one body."

Today, men are ever learning and are not able to come to the knowledge of the truth, Jesus Christ; but this has been true, to some extent, throughout the ages. Many years ago there was an intellect who was educated and absorbed in the finest culture of his day; yet Pontius Pilate, with all of his learning, stood face to face with the personified Embodiment of Imperishable truth and asked the question, "What is truth?" There are many intellects today that are refined and polished, but they are not able to know what truth actually is. You might say that we all know truths because truths are facts. It is a fact that you are reading this article, but only that which is received from God is everlasting truth. The heavens and the earth stand today as a fact; I believe science will agree with me, but who holds tomorrow in His hands? "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away," Mark 13:31. I want a truth that will not pass away; I want the divine truth of God. Do not let facts that are perishable deceive you. Keep your eyes upon the truth; keep your eyes upon the Word of God; keep your eyes upon Jesus Christ. As far as I am concerned, everything outside of Jesus Christ is a lie. "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me," John 14:6. When Jesus preached from the hillsides of Judaea and the shores of Galilee, he was

not only the Sermon but also the Text. The words He spoke and speaks, "they are spirit, and they are life."

EVERYTHING SPEAKS of the Man of truth. Every figure in the Word of God is either pointing directly or indirectly to Him. This is not only true in the Bible but also true in the whole creation. I am reminded of the Bread of Life and the Living Water at mealtime. I open the door and I think of Him as the Door. I look at the fields white unto harvest, and I think of His words. I look into the heavens and I am reminded of the Sun of Righteousness and the Bright and Morning Star. The Christian housewife that loves flowers has in her collection the Lily of the Valley and the Rose of Sharon. The Christian bricklayer can see Him as the Cornerstone of the foundation which the gates of hell shall not prevail against; the Christian carpenter during a day's work can feel the big, guiding hands of the Carpenter from Nazareth; and the Christian farmer has a vision of the Lamb that was slain on Calvary.

The Book of Truth surpasses all other books, being the best seller year after year with 25,000,000 copies sold all over the world every year. Of course, people buy it for many different reasons. Some read it that they may obtain stories to dramatize in plays, motion pictures, or radio programs; others study it as historical literature, for folkways, poetry, or for credit in Greek. Praise the Lord for the people that buy it, read it, and study it because it is the Word of God, the written Truth.

A man's judgment is no better than his information, but at the great Judgment Day there will be ample information. And when the books are opened, beside the Word of God will be the Book of Remembrance. Everything will be written accurately and in detail; everything will be revealed in truth. The Book of Truth tells us that Noah walked with God, Abraham was the friend of God, Jacob and Moses were "His Chosen," and that David was a man after His own heart; yet, with unflinching faithfulness, the same book records Noah's drunkenness, Abraham's deception about his wife, Lot's disgraceful conduct with his daughters, Jacob's cheating his brother and deceiving his father, Moses' outburst of temper, David's sin, Peter's cursing and swearing, and even Paul's and Barnabas's quarreling about Mark. Why is all of this revealed of God's elect? Because in the Book of Truth, nothing shall be concealed; eventually, all will be revealed.

Paul instructs Timothy to study and rightly divide the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15), and John says to try the spirits (1 John 4:1) that you may know the spirit of truth. Therefore, divine truth is not something you are going to trip over by accident, but it must be searched out and proven. The Spirit of truth will glorify the Man of truth, and reprove the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment; "and he will guide you into all truth," but "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God . . . neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." The Spirit of truth will not impress Himself upon you, but He will express himself through you. Not only should you possess this Spirit of truth, but also you should be led by Him. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God," Romans 8:14.

A GOOD BACKGROUND of knowledge in material wealth can be a great advantage in working for Christ. Today, Christian men should have a point of con-



tact with today's "ever learning" intellects. Though He was criticized for it, point of contact with sinners and publicans was one of Jesus' chief concerns. And the intellects of that day could not trick the Example; they were always turned away shamed because of the power of the truth. Divine truth is power in all forms, for when Jesus spoke "His word was with power" (Luke 4:32), and also God hath given us the spirit of power (2 Timothy 1:7). Today, as yesteryear, there is no question Jesus can not answer; no problem He can not solve; and He is never too busy to help those who want help.

It is always an advantage for a personal worker or a minister to possess a certain amount of general knowledge. The old saying holds true that knowledge is power, but you must possess the knowledge and not be possessed by the knowledge—"Knowledge puffeth up."

There is no such thing as fanaticism in the truth. As long as man stays in the realm of truth he will not become unbalanced, but "If any man think that he knoweth anything, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know." Thinking that you be religious does not make you so. Many fanatics have gone to so many pains trying to become heavenly minded that they are of no earthly good.

Although we must know before we can observe and do, knowledge alone is not sufficient. The greatest fools in history have been educated fools. The wisest man that ever lived, except Christ, failed God. All of his earthly wealth, fame, and power could not bring peace to his heart. He wrote, "And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit. For in much wisdom is much

(Continued on page 11)

THIS IS THE STORY of the day of conquest, the turning point for the army of Israel. We are all, I am sure, familiar with the story but I would like to recount it for you and to attach what I believe are significant values to the five stones.

The Israelite army was at war with the Philistines and evidently were on the defensive at this time. As all armies, the Philistines had a champion; and their hero was a giant by the name of Goliath of Gath—a boisterous fellow with many victories behind him. His delight was, seemingly, to ridicule the army of God and defy the One they served. Upon the scene came David, a shepherd lad, the youngest son of Jesse. He did not come to fight but to bring food and news from home to his brothers. About the time he arrived from home with the bags of bread and cheese, the uncouth and uncircumcised Goliath came out uttering his defiance to God and His army. This rubbed David the wrong way and I am glad that he had enough love for God and his cause to stand up for what he believed. Personally, I do not believe that any dedicated, consecrated child of God can hear his belief slandered and ridiculed without standing his ground. Because of his insistence to fight, David was carried to King Saul. After seeing that he could not discourage David, Saul gave him his own armor with which to do battle. Now, it would have been a fatal mistake for this shepherd lad if he had gone into battle against the giant with the armor of Saul, for it was not proven and was probably heavy for this little boy. This should be a lesson for us, as the Apostle Paul pointed out in Ephesians 6, to put on the whole armor of God that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil. The reason a good number of people do not win and are always grumbling about not having any victory is that they are wearing the wrong armor. We do not need nor can we use the armor of the world to fight the giant of sin.

After getting back his sling and scrip, David headed for the battlefield to meet Goliath; but on the way he stopped and picked up five smooth stones for the conflict. Could he have been praying? I think so, and may I add that here is the place to find the stones that we need to defeat our giant today.

Understand that these values are not assigned the stones in the Bible, but I am calling them by the qualities that David had and that we must have in this age if we are victorious.

Approaching the area of action I can see David put his hand into the bag to see if the number one stone was there. Yes, there it was—the stone of

HUMILITY

As I have pointed out before, David did not go to the place of fighting to win the war. He went as a bread carrier and came home a giant killer. It seems evident these days that too many people go out searching for giants and hunt ways to make themselves popular in the eyes of men, but the voice of God from Genesis to Revelation says, “the way up is down and the way down is up.” God help us to realize that we are nothing and that He is Everything; that we are powerless and He is powerful. We can have all the facilities, personality, power, and pomp that it takes to be successful in the natural and yet be a spiritual flop if we do not have the kind, sweet, forgiving, patient, understanding spirit of Christ—humility. As an illustration I will tell you the story of a

FIVE ST

By JOE SOUTHERLAND

2 Samuel 17:40a, “And he took his staff in stones out of the brook.”

gardener. This man had the most beautiful garden of the countryside, with all the fruits and flowers that you could imagine. When people stopped to marvel at the beauty and productivity of this wonder of nature and to inquire of how he made the garden so great and was able to grow exotic plants when everybody else failed, he invariably took them to a knoll at the summit of the plot and revealed his secret of success—a clear, bubbling, sparkling spring that irrigated his entire garden. However, one day an earthquake came and left a chasm between the garden and the spring and all the living water flowed down the hole into the earth. At once the flowers drooped their heads and wilted. The fruit withered, and the show place of beauty became a dry shell of its former self. The proprietor set about to find a solution to his problem. He went to a large bamboo tree and said, “Bamboo, I want to use you.” The tree, as the story goes, began to feel his importance and beat his chest and said, “Yes! use me, I am the largest, best-looking tree in the forest.” The man told him that first he would have to be cut down. To this the tree protested bitterly. He was told that he could not be used if not cut down. He finally gave in but still contended that he would look better down than any of the others would, up. Still the master said that he could not use him, for he was too long. The tree then made a big fuss and fumed over the fact that his long lovely joints must be cut off. After hours of bickering, he gave in but was still bragging, proud, and boastful and wanted to be used without further alteration. To this the gardener said “no” again, that first he must be trimmed. This was the real touchy spot, for his flowing branches were a symbol of his dominance, and very reluctantly he finally gave them up. His attitude was that though he had been cut down, shortened up, and trimmed off he was still the best. The seed of pride was still there. Again the master of the garden said the tree was not ready for use for he first would have to ram out the tissues between the joints. After this had been done and he was clean without and within, instead of a manner of pride and ego he lay prostrate and said, “have thine own way, if you can find a small place where you

STONES

HERLAND, Evangelist

staff in his hand and chose him five smooth

can use me, then put me in the place I fit." Then the gardener took the bamboo and laid him across the chasm and instantly the water began to flow through him into the garden bringing life again to it. Not only that but the Bamboo stump also began to grow and from the stub that was left, several trees grew.

Of course we realize that this is just a figurative story, but in it we find the secret for having God's power to win battles, if you please. If we think that in our own name and power we are something, then we are nothing. If, as David, we do the small things and allow God to cut us down, shorten us up, trim us off, and clean us out, though we may be in pieces we will be usable and help others as well as ourselves to grow in the grace of God. We must have this *stone of humility* if we are to become a giant killer.

A little farther on the field I see him reach to feel for the second stone. Is it there? Yes, it was

THE STONE OF COURAGE

Webster's Dictionary says: Courage—the quality that enables one to meet danger and difficulty with firmness.

There will be danger and difficulty to be faced as long as we are in the natural. The Devil will constantly hound you with battles that seem too big for you to win. This is when we find which men have the right kind of material in them. One writer said that we have an abundance of bones in the Church; jawbones that talk about conditions and never do anything about them; lazy bones that never do anything; dry bones that have lost their feeling and think everybody else also has. But, the ones that we need—the ones that have the victory, who never quibble, never grumble or fuss, but stand up and fight are the *backbones*. God give us more backbones. When we take a defeatist attitude, we have lost the battle already. I am aware that the Devil is fighting as hard or harder than ever and that every day he comes against us with something new. Remember as long as he is fighting us, he does not have us; and when he quits fighting, he has us. Some people testify and say, "Pray for me, the Devil has me on slip-

pery ground and I don't know whether I can make it much longer." That is not courage. The *stone of courage* takes away the supposed-to-be backbone that is only a cotton string with a few toothpick ribs attached to it and replaces it with one like a saw log; dries the tears of the sniveling defeatist and gives him something it takes to growl back at the Devil, and put him on the run. David was not afraid. Several times, in his writings, he said that he had no fear; and this day he had none, for he faced the giant instead of running; and he came off the battlefield a victor. Will you notice again Ephesians 6 and see what parts of the body the armor of God is for. You will find that all the parts are for the front of the body and not for the back. God intended for us to be filled with courage and not run from the giant of sin but to charge forward. When he met his armies retreating, Alexander the Great stopped them and ripping his shirt from his chest said, "Men, look upon these scars, they were made from the wounds I got going into battle." He turned his back and there was not a scar there. When his men saw this, they turned back to battle with renewed courage and became the conquerors. God help us to have the *stone of courage* that David had when he went to battle against Goliath, several times his size, with a prayer upon his heart and these words upon his lips, "I come to you in the name of the Lord God of the hosts of Israel." Remember, my friend, the words of Romans 8:31, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Was there another stone? Yes, and I am sure David had it also. It was

THE STONE OF FAITH

Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please him." The Bible also says that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Every man has faith but every man does not use his faith. Some men have it in the wrong channel. Faith that pleases God is the faith that comes from having seen God work, and though no victory can be seen, Faith steps up and says, "the battle is ours." Fear knocked at the door. Faith answered—no one was there.

David had killed a bear and a lion and he knew that the same God would give him victory over Goliath. David was physically unfit to cope with the giant but he had faith to believe that the hand of God was there to fight his battle for him although he could not see it with his natural eye. Though small in physical stature, he was towering head and shoulders above Goliath in spiritual strength. The hand of faith lifted him above his severest test.

David also looked through the eye of faith. This outlook minimizes the size of the enemy. The tough, fiery trials, the blockades that we face, the seemingly insurmountable objects that we incur, when looked at through the eye of faith, become steppingstones and stairs to higher heights and deeper depths with God. To please God, this is the stone that should be very smooth from daily use.

Then there was the next stone, the one of

SPIRITUAL POWER

This stone comes from contact with God. I am glad that in this world of skeptics and heretics, agnostics and gross disbelievers that man can still have contact with God and, consequently, spiritual power. Reading, praying, and meditation on God's Word always has produced this quality. We cannot make it in this life, and certainly we

cannot win any battles unless we have this stone. Was David a man of prayer? Did David read God's Word? Surely he did, for it is recorded several times in his writings that he felt a moving within his soul and a joy when he read the law of God. Now think about this: David had only the Pentateuch to read, and if he got stirred up by reading the Law and felt the marvelous, matchless, mighty, magnificent, moving power of God, how much more spiritual power should we have since we can read David's writings, the Prophets, the Gospels, and the Acts of the Apostles. The only demonstration of power that is worth anything is the kind that is Bible-planted, prayer-watered power. All other is as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. David surely felt God that day for he announced his trust in Him. If only Goliath's eyes could have been opened, he would, no doubt, have seen the battlefield aglow with the glory of God and a host of heaven's angels ready to help in the battle if necessary. Surely David had more than physical power, literal power, or any other man-made power. What was it? It was the *stone of spiritual power*—the one we also need today.

But, what was the stone that felled the Giant? What is the one quality that it takes to fell the giant of sin today? It is

THE STONE OF DETERMINATION

The stone that felled the giant; the stone that defeated overwhelming circumstances then, and does today. David was ridiculed, but determined. He was outsized, out-armed, outmanned; but, with his determination, he was not out-fought. It is possible for us to have humility, courage, faith, and spiritual power and lose them if we fail to have determination, for determination says, "though a mountain surrounds you and only one speck of light is seen, go toward it."

Bad circumstances have no place with God, for He will help you to overcome them if you are determined. Look at Peter! He walked the water until he looked at the waves rolling, the billows tossing high, and then he sank. Determination looks beyond the waves of doubt and the winds of strife and brings victory. We must press our way—all the way—and never turn back if we are to win this battle. God help us in this dark day to renew our covenants, re-establish our old landmarks and clasp to our souls these qualities we need so much—humility, faith, courage, spiritual power and determination.

Did this stone kill Goliath? No, but it paralyzed him for the kill. If we keep warding off the giant of sin by retaining these stones, then in the near future the sword of the Lord will decapitate him and remove him from our lives for eternity.

Remember:

*Though the battle may be hard and the conflict sore,
Rough and rocky the road, we are traveling o'er,
Hold on a little longer, Take Jesus by the hand,
He'll guide you safe to the glory land.*



CHRISTIAN PERFECTION

(Continued from page 5)

ment to the child of God. Ephesians 4:11-13, "And he gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the

unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." In presenting the full unadulterated work of God, its experiences, its blessings, its helps, and its growths, a perfect pattern of Christian living is offered to the child of God.

THE PROPER TEACHING of the principles of Christian responsibilities will help provide perfection. Colossians 1:27, 28, "Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus." The unrest and tension of modern living is enough to endanger the spiritual status of the most devout Christian. It is therefore very important that the Christian live a life of perfection. God is perfect; the gifts of God are perfect; the blessings of God are perfect. Thus the pattern of Christian living that God offers to mankind is perfect. By living in that pattern, we live the perfect Christian experience.

Love might well be used to describe the perfect attitude and development of the child of God. There is imperfection when there is a lack of love in a Christian life. In 1 John we have many scriptures which deal with perfect love. 1 John 4:16, 17, "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect . . ." Perfect love is a requirement of God. In Colossians 3:14 we have still more emphasis on love as a perfect foundation for Christian experience. "And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness." Love seems to be the binding cord of perfection.

In the writings of John we read further of the perfect love we should have in our lives. 1 John 2:5, "But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him." 1 John 4:12, "If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us." The real basis for Christian service is complete perfect love of God in our hearts. The perfect love of God is a necessity for a Christian.

Perfection is commanded of all Christians. 2 Corinthians 13:11, "Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect . . ." Perfection is not only the ultimate pattern of Christian growth but should be accepted as a life which is basking in the sweet warmth of the divine love of the heavenly Father.



WHAT IS THE WORLD'S GREATEST SECRET WEAPON?

(Continued from page 3)

of secret weapons. All of this points in the direction of destruction and death.

Only the Christian has the answer to the world's distress and perplexity. It cannot be solved with planes, tanks, ships or even A-bombs, H-bombs or any other super weapon. When sincere prayer, backed up by true faith in God, is made, then God's power is released upon and unto a world in material, physical, and above all, spiritual distress.

Will you as a soldier in the army of the Lord, rise up with this greatest secret weapon to do battle against the Satanic forces in these last days?

In Psalm 91:1 we find this thought, "He that dwelleth

in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." This does not infer an occasional visit to the secret place of the most High but that place must become our perpetual dwelling place. Then we shall ever be within helping distance of the Almighty for we shall be abiding under His shadow.



KNOW THE TRUTH!

(Continued from page 7)

grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow," Ecclesiastes 1:17, 18.

Knowledge of the truth is not enough; understanding

of the truth is not enough; but it takes obedience of the truth to please God. "If you know these things, happy are ye if ye do them," John 13:17. Satan not only knows the Word of God, but he also understands the Word of God and knows it as the truth. Satan said to Jesus in the wilderness temptation, "It is written." He is in subjection to the truth, but willful subjection is obedience.

Today, there are many things a man can know, but to know the truth, to feed your soul upon it, and someday to have the privilege of enjoying eternity with its Author is a goal that is set before every man, woman, and child. A shining promise, that a better world is possible, "When the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea," stands before us.



BLACK

W. H. Black, an ordained minister, of Alma, Georgia, passed away July 7, 1955.



BELL

S. C. Bell, of Fulton, Kentucky, membership on the Tennessee side, passed away on April 14, 1955, at the age of 72. Brother Bell had been preaching for about thirty years and was a faithful man until his death. He leaves to mourn his death, his wife and seven children—three boys and four girls. His funeral was conducted by Brother James Melton, of Kenton, Tennessee, and Mrs. Tom Williams, of Graves Chapel, Tennessee. May God's richest blessings be with the family of this faithful minister and Christian.—His state overseer, W. E. Johnson.



BLEVINS

The death angel saw fit to visit the home of Cill Blevins and take for its reward a wife and mother. Ladona (Stapp) Blevins was born January 15, 1935, at Puritan Mines, West Virginia, and departed this life August 6, 1955. She was married to Cill Blevins on August 18, 1947, and at the age of 20 she left to be with Jesus leaving her husband and her children—Lloyd, Joan, and Phillip. She also leaves to mourn her death her father and her mother; three brothers, Rev. Thomas Stepp of Clinton, Ohio, Dallas Stepp of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Delano Stepp of Massillon, Ohio; three sisters, Mrs. Lula Evans of Blue Creek, Ohio, Mrs. Kathleen Landry of Follensbee, West Virginia, and Mrs. Helen Riggs of Massillon, Ohio; and a host of relatives and friends. Ladona was saved when she was very young and united with the Church of God at Blue Creek, Ohio. She was a very faithful member. She was kind and loving, always talking about the Lord. So many times she said that if it was God's will he would heal her, but He took her home to be with Him. She is not dead, she is just away.—Mrs. Mattie Copas, her mother.



WESTBERRY

Noah T. Westberry, a faithful member of the Avon Park Church of God in Florida and a former member of the Nocatee Church of God, departed this life to be with Jesus on August 29, 1955. He was called home to glory while working on a construction job. Brother Noah had only been saved a short time, but was a wonderful church worker and a faithful member. He leaves to mourn his departure his companion, Evelyn; two small sons, David and Jeffery; his mother and dad, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Westberry; and his brother, Connie R. Westberry. Brother Noah was only twenty-five years old. He will be missed very much, but our loss is heaven's gain. We look forward to meeting Brother Noah over on the shore of sweet deliverance.—Beatrice Baucom, Sunday School Secretary.

VARNADORE

W. H. Varnadore, 47, departed this life on August 19, 1955, to be with his God whom he served, loved and trusted. He was a faithful member of the Big Oaks Church of God in Georgia. His funeral was conducted by Brother Hilda Hulett and his pastor. Our loss is heaven's gain.—G. A. Lewis, Pastor.

MCKEEVER

Fred C. McKeever, 69, died August 5, in the Jasper Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Dora McKeever, of Nauvoo, Alabama; five daughters, Miss Dorothy McKeever, Mrs. Clyde Baird, Mrs. Owen Steele, Mrs. Earl Self, and Mrs. Clyde Williams. — Mrs. Clyde Williams.

HICKS

Mrs. Melley Hicks, 86, passed away May 10, 1955, at the home of her daughter. She leaves two daughters, four sons, and many grandchildren and friends. She was sick for a long time, but she went to the house of



God every time she could. She had been a faithful member of the Massey Line, Alabama, Church of God for twenty-six years. Her parting leaves a vacancy in our church that can never be filled. She is greatly missed by a host of friends, but our loss is heaven's gain. Her pastor, Brother J. C. Pinion, and two former pastors, O. C. York and H. L. Kitchens, conducted her funeral.—Mrs. Claude Morton, her granddaughter.

CURRY

J. H. Curry passed away August 22, 1955, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He had served as Overseer of the Colored Work in the Church of God from 1928 to 1939.

GAMMILLS

The sweet spirit of Mrs. Ida Gammills took its flight into the great beyond on September 18, 1955, to be forever with the Lord. She was a charter member of the Byrds Chapel Church of God in Mississippi and was laid to rest in the Byrds Chapel Cemetery. She is survived by her husband, five daughters, and one son. Sister Gammills was faithful to her church and a blessing to all that knew her. She is greatly missed by her friends and loved ones, but we are looking forward to meeting her on heaven's shore.—J. J. Nolen, Pastor.

RAGSDALE

On August 23, the Lord called our darling sweet mother, Sister Rebecca Ragsdale, of Sumiton, Alabama, to reap her reward. She was truly a saint of God. She received the sweet Holy Ghost some thirty years ago and united with the Church of God of which she remained a faithful member until her death. She leaves to mourn her departure three sons and three daughters. All was done for her that could be done, but the Heavenly Father saw fit for her to go. She had suffered heart attacks for three weeks and died at the age of 72. She will be missed by all who knew her.—Idelthia Holley, her daughter.

revivals

ROCHELLE, Ill.—We have had a very wonderful revival conducted by Brother Jonney Warren, who celebrated his nineteenth birthday while here. We must say his preaching is very good. God is using this consecrated young man. Nine were saved. We had the largest crowds we have had for a regular service. We brought the folding chairs from the Sunday School rooms and kept the choir on the platform. Our church was very blessed by Brother Jonney's preaching, and we plan to have him again, the Lord willing. Also, our church gave him a shower of beautiful gifts for his birthday. Pastors, Brother Warren works for the good of the church, so do not miss having him.—C. G. Friedley, Pastor.

ALARKA, N. C.—We enjoyed a good revival the first two weeks in August. God surely met with us in a great way. Clara Nix, a prospective young minister, conducted the revival. Eleven were saved, 2 sanctified, and 3 added to the Church. The church in general was blessed. Sister Clara, who is only 17, has just started to work for God. She surely is a good, consecrated girl and a wonderful worker among the young people. Anyone desiring a youth revival would not do wrong in securing her. She lives the life and is a wonderful preacher.—Mrs. M. R. Snyder.

CROSSVILLE, Tenn.—Our church was wonderfully blessed with a revival conducted by Brother L. G. Rouse. Eight were saved, 4 sanctified, 2 filled with the Holy Ghost, 8 added to the Church, and 4 baptized in water. God surely did bless. Several testified to being healed. One lady was healed of high blood pressure, and a little girl who was blind in one eye was healed. Brother Rouse did some good preaching.—J. T. Rhymer.

CINCINNATI, Iowa—A note of praise about our revival conducted by Brother J. H. Freeman from Knoxville, Iowa, is in order. We enjoyed the wonderful spirit of God in every service. The special music and singing which the young people from Knoxville rendered was spirit-filled. Four were saved. Brother Freeman would bless any church with his spirit-filled messages.—Mrs. C. M. Franks.

GATEWOOD, Mo.—Recently, we had the first revival ever held in our new church building. We have had quite a struggle here, but the Lord is for us. We now have a good start for which we give God all the glory. The evangelist was Sister Addie Mae and Sister Mary Ann Redus. They preached each night under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Two backsliders were reclaimed and the good gospel seed was sown. We believe we will see further results of their preaching. Although they are still in their teens, they are wholly

consecrated to God. We believe they will help any church needing a revival. Our pastor is Brother Archie D. Duley. He drives over eighty miles to be with us and hold services. We praise God for sending Brother and Sister Duley to help us build up a work for the Lord. We always need the prayers of praying people.—Louise Poole, Clerk.

DENTON, Ga.—We are working on the Hazlehurst District at Macedonia. The church is only about three years old. When we came here in the fall of 1954, we had only seventeen members, but we now have forty-two. We started a revival on April 11 which lasted until May 29. God was with us in a marvelous way in every service. He poured out His spirit in a great way. Twenty-seven were saved, 14 sanctified, 11 baptized with the Holy Ghost, 17 baptized in water, and 14 added to the Church. Words can never express how God worked. This community was and still is stirred as never before. Sister Onez King was the evangelist. Any church will do well to get her for a revival. We praise God for all these blessings. My husband and I both felt definitely led to come here, and we still feel as if we are in the Lord's will.—Mrs. Ira J. Hand.

WARD'S GAP, Va.—Recently, we had a revival with Sister Mary Perry as our evangelist. Fourteen were saved, 12 sanctified, 5 filled with the Holy Ghost, 9 baptized in water, and 7 added to the Church. The Lord met with us each night, and the power of God and the Holy Ghost were there to bless in a wonderful way. The building was filled, with many outside unable to get in. These services certainly were a blessing to our church, and we are sure Sister Perry would be a blessing to any church.—W. E. Faw, Pastor.

NEWVILLE, Pa.—Recently, we had a revival conducted by Brother Norman Seese of Somerset, Pennsylvania. The members of the church said it was as good as any revival of the past, even as far back as the "good old days." Fifteen were saved, 9 sanctified, 9 baptized with the Holy Ghost, 2 baptized in water, and 7 added to the Church. Many people claimed their healing as they were prayed for during the revival. For these many blessings we thank and praise God.—James J. Caldwell, Pastor.

MIDWAY, Ga.—We have witnessed the best revival we have had in many years. The Lord really did bless. Brother Calvin Corley, a member of our church and a wonderful man of God, did the preaching. Fourteen were



CLAYTON, Ga.—We had a good revival which started July 25 and lasted three weeks. The Lord surely did bless. Nineteen were saved, 16 sanctified, 5 filled with the Holy Ghost, and a number healed each night. Also, on my third Sunday as pastor here, we broke our Sunday School attendance

record. Praise God! He is surely blessing us. To the left of the register board is the pastor and on the right is the evangelist, Brother John H. Cobb. Pray for us that we will be a blessing to the city of Clayton.—J. C. Quilliams, Pastor.

saved, 10 sanctified, and 10 filled with the Holy Ghost during the two weeks. A good number have been saved and received the Holy Ghost since the revival closed. The Holy Ghost has been real and has taken charge of our services for which we gratefully praise the Lord. God is doing great things here. We thank God for our good pastor, Brother E. P. Gunter, and the work he is doing.—Martha Bell, Reporter.

DELTA, Ala.—We are happy to report a wonderful revival conducted by Brother Joe James. Eighteen were saved, 11 sanctified, 10 filled with the Holy Ghost, 3 baptized in water, and 3 added to the Church. The church and the community was greatly blessed.—Carl W. Johnson, Pastor.

SAGINAW, Mich.—Recently, we had a three weeks' revival conducted by Brother Joe Southerland. The Lord blessed in a marvelous way and proved his power of miracles in this day. Six were saved, 2 sanctified, and 1 received the Holy Ghost. The revival is not measurable by the number of converts for our crowds were made up of Christians. The Church was blessed as never before and grew in every department. Brother and Sister Southerland not only worked in the regular services but also they held Children's Church and a Youth Singspiration once a week. Seventeen testified to being definitely healed—some of varicose veins, leg swelling, muscular dystrophy, chronic headaches, arthritis, and rupture. We baptized 8 in water, and took 9 into the Church of God. Praise His name! The messages were wonderful, the crowds were better than average, and the spirit was high. We are on the move in Saginaw, having doubled our attendance in the past year and steadily climbing. Pray for us that we, as a part of God's great Church, may ever move on for Him.—G. J. Chandler, Pastor.

PINEVILLE, Ky.—In August our church had a tent revival. Brother Clay Shelton, our District Pastor, preached during the first part of the meeting and Brother Johnny McPherson preached the last two weeks. Several were saved and sanctified, and one was filled with the Holy Ghost. We have part of the blocks laid on our new church building and will have a greater report later by God's will.—W. L. Bloomfield, Pastor.

SMITHVILLE, Tenn.—We had a wonderful tent revival this summer in which 55 were saved, 10 sanctified, 10 filled with the Holy Ghost, and 10 added to the Church. Brother Woodrow Morgan from Cleveland, Tennessee, was our evangelist. He prayed for the sick each evening, and many testified to the wonderful healing power of the Lord and to how they were delivered from numerous diseases and afflictions. We appreciate Brother Morgan's ministry and the help he has been to our church.—C. R. Stansberry, Pastor.

CODY, Ala.—We are happy to report a wonderful revival which was

conducted by Sister Hazel Gann from Soddy, Tennessee. She conducted the revival with power and zeal and her messages were anointed by the Holy Ghost. It was the best revival we have had in years. About 10 were saved, 4 sanctified, 4 filled with the Holy Ghost, 5 baptized in water, and 3 added to the Church. Our pastor, Brother H. F. Finley, and his wife have their hearts in the work and are wonderful workers. We certainly appreciate them. The Lord is blessing spiritually and financially.—Gerturde Newman Nolen.

SELMA, Calif.—The Church of God of Selma moves forward. Recently, we had a revival conducted by Brother Don Parker. Nine were saved, 8 sanctified, 8 filled with the Holy Ghost, and 9 baptized in water. We certainly do appreciate Brother Parker. We are planning to purchase a half acre of land which has a nice parsonage on it, and we also plan to build a new church this fall.—R. O. Woodruff, Pastor.

DENTON, Texas.—We have had a very successful two weeks' revival. The tent was pitched on West Hickory Street and many nights the tent was full. The sweet presence of our Lord was felt by all. Even the sinners told about the power of God that was felt under the tent. Surely Denton knows that the Church of God has come to town. Everyone that attended was blessed by the anointed preaching of our evangelist, Brother Billy Ray Laird. Reports are still coming in of

the results of this revival. The power was so real that on some nights sinners came to the altar without an invitation or the preaching of the Word. We also appreciate Sister Janey Laird's singing and playing of the accordion. Our church was reorganized August 14, 1955, and Brother Terry F. Phillips, Jr., is the pastor.—Church Reporter.

DYERSBURG, Tenn.—Recently, we had a three weeks' revival conducted by Brother and Sister James Morris of Alabama. Several prayed through to definite experiences with the Lord and others were reclaimed and stated a greater determination than ever to live for the Lord. A twenty-four hour prayer chain was continued throughout the revival, and the church was greatly blessed. The preaching and singing were both very good and, yes, everyone agrees that it was a good revival. Those desiring a revival will do well to secure the services of Brother and Sister Morris.—Mrs. G. W. Baize.

CALLAHAN, Fla.—Recently, we had a three weeks' revival conducted by Brother John A. Rich of Garden City, Florida. The power of God fell in a mighty way in each service. Several backsliders came back to God, and the church was blessed in a great way. This revival will long be remembered by members and friends of the church. We appreciate our good pastor, Brother L. W. Camp, and his family. They have been a great blessing to our church. Pray for us at Callahan.—Ella Mae Daughtry, Clerk.

LOCKHART, S. C.—Recently, we had a very successful revival with Brother C. L. Tyree and his fine wife. Our church came together in a wonderful spirit of prayer with a continuous chain of prayer around the clock. God richly blessed the church. Fifteen were saved, 5 sanctified, and 2 filled with the Holy Ghost. Laboring with us was our fine pastor and his wife, Brother and Sister C. L. Trammell, and God gave a wonderful increase. Any church will do well to engage Brother and Sister Tyree, for they will labor untiringly with you.—Jesse Griffin, Clerk.

GREENVILLE, Fla.—Recently, we had the greatest revival that the Greenville Church of God has ever experienced. Brother Lester Knox conducted the revival which lasted three weeks. God poured out his power in a great way. People from far and near came out night after night to hear the true gospel. Also, people from other branches of belief helped us in this revival. Many were healed. Fifteen were saved, 12 sanctified, and 8 filled with the Holy Ghost. God spoke to His people in Greenville as he spoke to Moses when he was on holy ground. Words can never express what this revival has meant to our town. Anyone who wants a man of God for a revival should contact Brother Knox. His address is Adel, Georgia.—Sadie Mae Thigpen.

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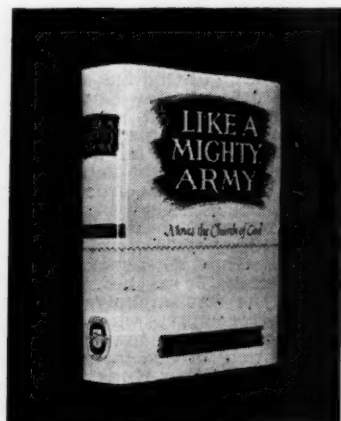
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Florida Camp Meeting

Amid a beautiful tropical setting of palm trees and Spanish moss, God poured out a rain of His rich blessings which will never be forgotten. Tuesday night, June 14, 1955, was the official opening of the Florida State Camp Meeting in Wimauma, Florida. Thousands filled the great steel tabernacle for the opening service as a choir of Spirit-filled young people lifted their voices in praise to the Father. As the sun was casting its last long rays of gold over our picturesque lake and a silver moon came peeping above the pines, young and old mingled their prayers of thanksgiving and adoration.

The theme of this camp meeting, which was suggested by Brother Earl P. Paulk, Sr., state overseer of Florida and moderator of the camp meeting was "O Lord, give us an old-time Holy Ghost camp meeting." In unison this was repeated many times during the services, and God did just that.

Ray Hughes, National Sunday School and Youth Director and night speaker for the entire camp meeting, brought soul-searching and inspiring messages which cannot be excelled. He introduced our text for the camp meeting, which ran parallel with the theme "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit saith the Lord of Hosts." As he preached under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, sinners left their seats and literally ran to the altar. The general expression was that such marvelous altar calls had never been seen before. Every night the altar, which runs almost the whole width of the tabernacle, the first row of chairs on the main floor, and, on several nights, a part of the choir was completely filled with repentant sinners and Christians hungry for a deeper experience with the Lord.

Wednesday night, June 22, was set aside as a night to pray for the sick. The ministers lined the front and prayed for the hundreds of people who filled by for prayer. God sent a divine wave of glory which was truly wonderful. One woman who had not been able to walk for weeks laid aside her crutches and shouted up and down the aisles. There were other testimonies of God's healing power.

Brother David Lemons, the Bible teacher, did a wonderful job of lecturing on "The Realm of the Spirit." Many doctrinal points, which weren't clear to many, were vividly brightened to his listeners. Following the Bible study, Brother E. M. Ellis presented sermons of standing truth.

Sunday morning, A. M. Phillips, state overseer of Kentucky, brought a great missions sermon. The Lord blessed us with \$5,000 in the morning



offering, which made a grand total of \$37,000 for the year for missions. We praise the Lord!

Other ministers who preached from time to time added to the spiritual greatness of the camp meeting. God seemed to anoint each man with the message pertinent to the needs of the hour.

The special singing was simply great. The Southernares and the Noble Aires from Lee College, the Ladies Camp Meeting Trio, and many other special groups sang wonderful songs of praise. Arnold Godwin's rendition of "Remember Me" was asked for again and again. The International Religious Bookstore, managed by Brother A. L. Roberts, added greatly to the camp meeting by displaying song books and sheet music of which hundreds of copies were sold.

Of course, camp meeting just would not be camp meeting for the children and grown-ups alike if it were not for snowballs and the lemonade stand. To add to the comfort and enjoyment of the camp meeting, the tabernacle was furnished with new metal chairs which were appreciated by all.

The effects of this camp meeting will never be fully known, but it will always be remembered as one of the greatest in the hearts of those who were privileged to attend. Ministers and laity alike will go from this camp meeting with new zeal and determination to work harder for the Master this next year than ever before. We shall all look forward to the time when we shall meet here again for another glorious feast from above, and should the Lord come before the next Florida camp meeting, we shall spend the greatest camp meeting of all in the skies.—Elvelda Duncan, Reporter.

Wisconsin Convention

The 1955 State Convention of Wisconsin has come and gone, leaving deep historical marks of thrills and superlative happiness in the minds of our people. Ministers and laity came from over the state under many adverse circumstances, but all were expecting a time of ecstasy and fellowship with their brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Brother Lindsey Pratt, of Battle Creek, Michigan, was the guest speaker. I must say that the church folks of Wisconsin will never be the same after his inspiring sermons. Brother Pratt seemed to have the leading of the Lord in his selection of messages.

James A. Cross, Assistant General Overseer, represented General Headquarters. The folks are still talking about Brother Cross's first visit to

Wisconsin, his great message, and his humility, although he is an official of the Church. Brother Johnnie Owens brought the mission message so ably that Wisconsin superseded any thing it had ever done by way of missions.

Visiting ministers were Brother Sam Edmonds and Mrs. Edmonds, of Chicago, Illinois; Grady Waters, Overseer of Minnesota, and Mrs. Waters; John Black, of De Kalb, Illinois; and C. G. Friedely, of Rochelle, Illinois. A group of the laity from Illinois also visited us in our convention.

Each minister was at his or her post of duty to help make this convention the success that it was.

In Saturday evening's service the Youth Board, consisting of Mrs. Joy Priest, Marilyn Weed, and Evelyn Moore were in charge. They presented a very well-balanced program including a Boy Scout program and a program for the Juniors and Seniors.

The L.W.W.B. directed by the State President, Sister Moore, presented a play on how the ladies of a church could help the local church.

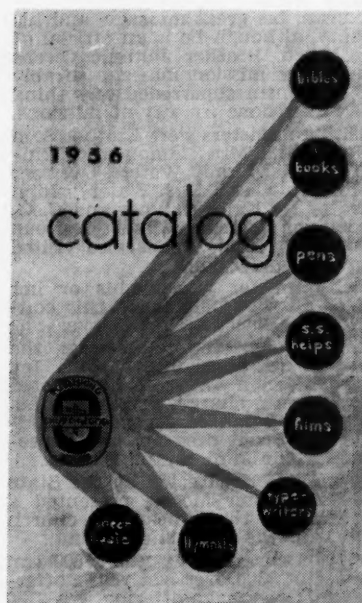
Our mission offering was \$1800—an increase of \$300 over last year's offering. Our Orphanage offering was \$130—also an increase over last year's offering.

I am sure that this convention will long be remembered by the fine people of Wisconsin. We are now making preparations for the great event of next year when we will again hear the cry, "State Convention time in Wisconsin."—Estel D. Moore, Overseer of Wisconsin.

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.—Inspired by the new pastor, Brother E. L. Moore, the Church of God, 1419 Woughtown Street, is planning an extensive inside redecorating and remodeling program. Brother Moore being a building contractor, prior to his becoming a minister of the gospel, finds his previous experience very helpful in supervising the work. He reminds one of the Apostle Peter, the fisherman, whom Jesus called to be a fisher of men, so Brother Moore, once a bulder of houses, now builds for God.

In an impressive message on Revelation 1:20, John's vision of the seven golden candlesticks (churches), Brother Moore painted a picture with words of The Church—all "born again believers in Christ"; comparing them to lighted candles and stressing perfection for believers which make up the body of Christ. As Brother Moore went on exhorting, picturing the great necessity of following Christ in the Bible way of supporting the Church, a sacred hush seemed to settle over the audience and to inspire each one to catch a new vision of Christ and His Church.—Reporter, Louise Wall.

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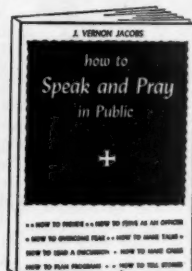
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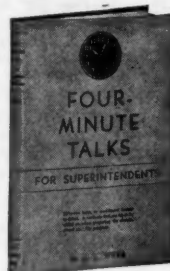
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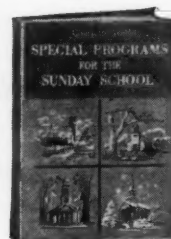
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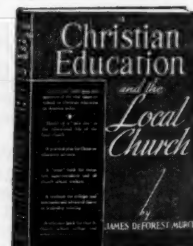
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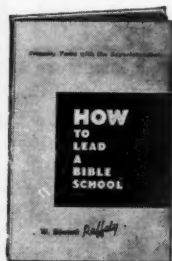
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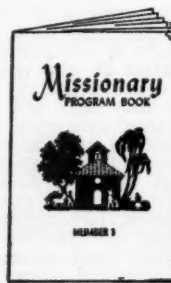
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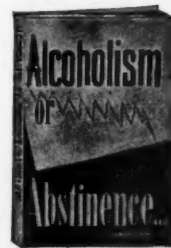
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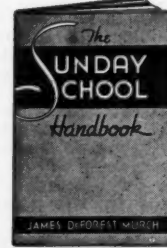
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